

Jeffrey P. Kerekes

INITIATED PROJECTS

Here is a list of some of my more important initiatives.

KEC Newsletter - One was sent out last fall, and another one (the third) is almost ready to be sent out this spring. This was a project I initiated and took responsibility for creating. The second newsletter never made it out due to reasons beyond my control.

Volunteer Policy - In an effort to run a successful volunteer program, I determined that we needed to have a policy in place. I also reviewed and revamped the old volunteer registration and information forms. As a part of this effort I have made contact with the United Way's Volunteer Action Center which operates as a clearing house for people who want to find places to volunteer. I have also set up a volunteer training and orientation day on May 16th and have begun advertising for it.

Intern Program - I initiated our intern program. As a part of this project I wrote up job descriptions, contacted area colleges and faxed/mailed out the descriptions. I have a detailed listing of the internship contacts at the area colleges and have been using that to recruit summer and fall interns. This spring we have had three interns. Two additional interns were here for the month of January. Overall, this has been a successful use of time.

Youth Group Contact Listing - When I came on in May, I was asked to provide programs for area youth groups and I put together a comprehensive listing of these groups. These 75 contacts are now part of our available mailing list.

Press Contact List - Also when I came on board, I needed a new press contact list and sought out to revise and add new places such as tv and radio to the old one. I used this list to advertise the programs I was offering and for recruiting volunteers. This press list was greatly expanded and added to after Lisa Monachelli (intern) addressed it more directly in January, but the initial efforts were important because the old list was outdated and incomplete.

Local Boy and Girl Scout Councils - I made contacts with representatives of these councils in order to increase the number of scout programs we offer. The Girl Scouts advertised our programs to over 9,000 adults, who serve more than 30,000 girls. We have been scheduling scout programs and will be offering a scout program brochure soon that is similar in content and design to the school program brochure.

Educational Field Trip Brochure - This is a result of my efforts in creating the programs and also writing much of the text within the brochure. One intern helped draft this information into the initial version with a lot of input from me. The final draft was also cleaned up with help from Diane and Caryn. This brochure will be instrumental in reaching schools and advertising the Center.

Faculty Meetings - I began visiting schools during their scheduled faculty meetings in order to brief them on the changes here at the KEC as well as to promote our teacher workshops and school program offerings.

Outreach- I initiated contact with Alternative to Incarceration Programs and we have been offering programs to groups such as Youth Continuum (New Haven) and STAR Program (Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford) throughout the entire year. This has been a rewarding experience and I would like to continue offering programs to these and other groups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For more detailed information on my accomplishments, please refer to the Activity Reports I initiated in June of last year. I have all of the reports on file if you are missing any of these monthly reports.

- In 1996 the KEC had 51 youth and school programs throughout the year. In 1997, from June (when I began) through the end of October (when we stopped scheduling and recruiting schools because we didn't know if I would be here to teach them), we had 48 school and youth programs (over five months).
- Training: Community CPR and First Aid; Project WET Facilitator
- Merit Badge Councilor - I initiated the process to become a certified merit badge councilor for the Boy Scouts. I can offer Bird Study, Nature Study and Environmental Science Merit Badges here at the Center.
- I designed and researched material for the Hebron and Big E Fair exhibit on open space.
- I was the contact person on site during the phone and fax installation and acted as the liaison to the installer. I also programmed the fax machine and had the staff trained on its use.
- I designed our school program policy.
- I created an after school program for Bungay Elementary School.

FUTURE PLANS

Continuing Education - There are several Towns/Regions offering continuing education programs for adults. Trumbull services several thousand each year. We could be offering an extension onto one or more of these existing programs and offer courses in a variety of topic areas. I have laid the foundation for this to happen with three such programs. It would take course development and more contact with these organizations to implement a program.

Field Trips - I would like to offer a series of field trips to the different state parks and forest of Connecticut for adults and high school students. These would be thematic programs that focus on specific topics. This is a great opportunity to offer in conjunction with other organizations such as CFPA, Friends of CT State Parks and Audubon Societies.

Environmental Club - Many high schools offer environmental clubs that vary in the amount they do. I thought it would be great to tap into these groups of interested people and offer a regional environmental club for high school students. The club would explore environmental issues of concern within the State as well as explore topics in ecology and natural history from a balanced perspective.

Inquiry Based Programing - I believe it would be a positive move to make our programs more inquiry based. This would help teachers and students meet their needs for CAP and Mastery testing and provide a more defined context to the programs we currently offer.

Volunteer Program - I would like to spend time developing a solid volunteer program that begins a life of its own, where it sustains itself through word of mouth and internal volunteer leadership. Bill Arnold, a person who expressed becoming our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator (and who is extremely qualified for the position) has some reservations about coming aboard and stated that he would not become the Volunteer Coordinator unless I was going to be here on staff because we have an established professional relationship. If that were to take place, I believe Bill would help expand and solidify our program.

Intern Program - I would like to see the intern program become stronger and to formalize an internship arrangement with area colleges such as SCSU. This has been initiated by Roger and I believe it to be a right step. This would provide a steady flow of interns into the Center in a more formalized arrangement that would be beneficial to all involved.

After school Programs - I would like to offer more after school programs for area elementary schools, such as the Bungay After School Program.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



October 29, 1997

To whom it may concern:

Working with Jeffrey Kerekes at the Kellogg Environmental Center has been both pleasurable and enlightening. He gets along well with everyone, is thoughtful of his co-workers, is always willing to help out in any way, and never fails to start the day with a smile and a positive attitude. He is knowledgeable in his field, yet still hungry to learn and open to new views and concepts. As an instructor, he is enthusiastic and has the ability to fill his students with the same, regardless of age. I have no doubt that he has changed the lives of many who have passed through the center.

I feel that Jeffrey Kerekes will be a valuable asset to any organization, and will be successful in future endeavors. He will be greatly missed at Kellogg Environmental Center. If I can be of any further help, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherie Blasko".

Cherie Blasko
Kellogg Environmental Center
P.O. Box 435
Derby, CT 06418





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



October 24, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and sadness that I write this letter of recommendation on Jeffrey's behalf. I am saddened at the prospect of losing him, however, it is a pleasure to at least be able to write this letter for him.

Jeffrey Kerekes came on board with Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection this Spring as a Seasonal Staff Naturalist for the Kellogg Environmental Center during a time of reorganization and the downsizing of permanent staff, in other words, a start-up operation. Jeffrey rose to the challenge admirably, demonstrating great flexibility, good judgement and initiative. Jeffrey enabled my transition of responsibilities and duties by often anticipating facility and program needs and providing recommendations.

As is often the case with startup operations that staff are asked to multitask. Once again, Jeffrey rose to the occasion. He created, publicized and offered our youth group summer programs with minimal lead time. During this same time, he assisted with special events, created and offered programs for the general public and offered his first teacher workshop.

During an unprecedented technological revolution at the Center, Jeffrey leaped to the challenge with enthusiasm. During my absence, he became a very able and critical liaison with the phone company while a new sophisticated phone system was being installed. Shortly after that, our first fax machine was installed. Jeffrey proved indispensable in quickly understanding this machine, training the rest of us in its use and quickly troubleshooting problems as we encountered them.

Jeffrey works easily and comfortably with other staff, and confidently with a variety of audiences. I would recommend Jeffrey for any environmental education position requiring initiative, responsibility, communication skills, and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Lawson
Lead Program Specialist

Kellogg Environmental Center, P.O. Box 435, Derby, CT

(Printed on Recycled Paper)

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106 - 5127

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



March 4, 1998

Jeffrey Kerekes
Kellogg Environmental Center
P.O.Box 435
Derby, CT 06418

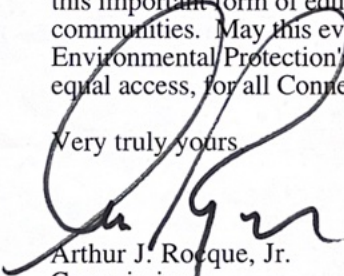
Dear Jeffrey,

On behalf of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, it gives me great pleasure to thank you for your part in making this year's indoor festival celebrating Dr. King's Legacy of Environmental Justice at the Peabody Museum of Natural History such a tremendous success.

What a wonderful example of collaboration! Over two hundred volunteers from twenty five organizations worked tirelessly to make the day an educational event for all who participated. To know that some two thousand Connecticut citizens came away from this day at the museum having learned something more about the environment, and their relationship to it, is truly a testament those individuals who participated in creating and producing it.

I am particularly impressed by the commitment shown by your participation as a DEP employee. I am truly grateful to you for spending Martin Luther King Day involved in this important form of educational outreach to members of Connecticut's urban communities. May this event continue to be a tangible affirmation of the Department of Environmental Protection's commitment to environmental equity, to equal protection and equal access, for all Connecticut citizens.

Very truly yours,


Arthur J. Rocque, Jr.
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

BUNGAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

35 Bungay Road
Seymour, CT 06483

Telephone (203) 888-9009 - Fax (203) 888-1812

Cathy G. Colella
Principal

Jay M. Brennan
Assistant Principal

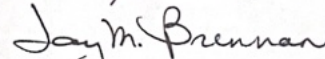
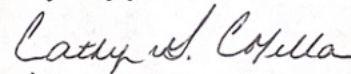
May 13, 1998

Jeff Kerekes
P.O. Box 435
Derby, CT 06418

Dear Jeff:

We want to send you our personal thanks, as well as that from our entire school community, for the time that you given us by teaching in our highly successful "Afterschool Adventure Program" this spring. We're sure you were well rewarded by the smiles on the faces of the students in your class. Volunteers really do make a difference in shaping the wonderful programs we can offer to our students here at Bungay School. Please accept our sincere gratitude for the fine job that you did. Our school is an even better place because of your commitment. We look forward to our 1999 program and hope you will be able to be a part of it again.

Very truly yours,



Cathy G. Colella
Jay M. Brennan



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Office of Communications and Education
Kellogg Estate

April 2, 1998

Diane B. Regali
Human Resources Division
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Diane B. Regali,

Jeff has been working at the Kellogg Environmental Center for approximately 10 months. He has shown both excellent quality and quantity of work performed at the Center. His knowledge of work in Environmental Education is excellent and he has great initiative, great cooperation with fellow workers and great enthusiasm for the job. Additionally, he deals fantastically with the general public.

I understand that Jeff is applying for the Park and Recreation Supervisor position and I would recommend him for a full-time position. He would be a great asset to the Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJ" followed by a flourish, and the date "4/2/98" written to the right.

Richard Joy
Environmental Maintainer 3
Kellogg Estate
PO Box 435, 500 Hawthorne Ave.
Derby, CT 06418





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



November 4, 1997

Dear Sir/Madam:

This year I was able to get to know Jeffrey Kerekes through his employment at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, Connecticut. Jeffrey was employed by the CT Department of Environmental Protection as a Seasonal Interpretive Naturalist. Jeffrey worked at developing new programs to attract seniors, students and the general public. Jeffrey has led a variety of programs ranging from walks focusing on hawk migration, school programs on recycling, insects and forest ecology and general public programs on observing wildlife.

Jeffrey has brought to the Kellogg Environmental Center a tremendous amount of knowledge and enthusiasm. He has approached his work with creativity and has taken the initiative to try various methods to appeal to a variety of audiences. Jeffrey's friendly personality and positive attitude, together with his enthusiasm and knowledge, has allowed the students that he works with to benefit greatly. The students respond very well to Jeffrey's teaching methods and have learned to better appreciate science and nature.

His initiative to get information out to the public through newspaper articles, press releases and maintaining contact with local reporters has been a tremendous asset to the Center. Jeffrey acted as co-editor for the first newsletter put out by the Center - *The Kellogg Connection* which is distributed to teachers and the general public throughout the state.

Jeffrey never fails to get his work done in an organized and timely fashion; he constantly brings new insights to the job and he has the confidence and ability to work independently. He has gained the respect of his peers in the environmental field and is always willing to assist others in getting the job done. He is never reticent about taking on new responsibilities and yet maintains a high level of quality in the work that he does.

I would recommend Jeffrey for employment as an interpretive naturalist and would be happy to provide any additional information. I can be contacted at the number and address below.

Sincerely,

Diane Chisnall Joy
Environmental Curriculum Coordinator
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Environmental Education
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106



(Printed on Recycled Paper)

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106 - 5127

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KELLOGG ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



Educational Field Trips



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Ave.
Derby, CT 06418



Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner

Dear Teachers and Administrators:

It is the intention of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Kellogg Environmental Center to offer programs to create an environmentally literate citizenry. This brochure details field trips available for students in grades four and higher and provides general information about the teacher workshops that we offer. Our programs are grade appropriate and adjustable to fit the needs of your students. We strive to make our classes interdisciplinary in nature and, therefore, they are not just for science teachers. At this time, these programs are only being offered at the Center.

The Kellogg Environmental Center is conveniently located in Derby, 7 miles west of New Haven off Route 34, adjacent to Osbornedale State Park which encompasses forests, meadows, streams and ponds. Our programs often utilize indoor classroom resources such as stereoscopic microscopes, preserved specimen samples, binoculars, field guides, slide programs and more, to help make the educational experience complete.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Kellogg Environmental Center Staff

Connecticut Department of
Environmental Protection
Office of Communications and Education
Kellogg Environmental Center
500 Hawthorne Avenue
PO Box 435
Derby, CT 06418



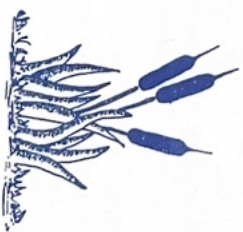
Visit our Websites...

DEP

<http://dep.state.ct.us/Cmrsoftc/Comuned/kellogg.htm>

Electronic Valley

<http://www.LnValley.org/Derby/rec/kellogg.html>



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Kellogg Environmental Center...

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, CT is a modern environmental education and teacher training center located adjacent to more than 400 acres of meadows, streams, old pastures and wooded hills of Osbornedale State Park. The Kellogg Environmental Center (KEC) offers hands-on nature activities for the general public, families, schools and youth groups with workshops on topics such as nature photography, vermicomposting and birdwatching. Indoor exhibits and the works of local artists are on display at the KEC.

Our Mission...

The KEC's mission is to promote an increased public awareness, understanding and appreciation of natural environments, and to encourage active participation in the resolution of issues impacting environmental quality.

Hands on Environmental Education Workshops...

The Kellogg Environmental Center offers a variety of teacher workshops including "Environmental Chemistry," "Wicked Big Puddles: Vernal Pool Ecology," and the national environmental education curricula Projects WET, WILD, Aquatic WILD and Learning Tree. The Kellogg Environmental Center has also developed a workshop series that will assist teachers and students to create and use "Schoolyard Habitats".

Registration for workshops is required. Call (203) 734-2513 for a current listing of our workshops. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available.



Educational Programs For School Field Trips...

Winter Wildlife

Title: "Where the Wild Things are in Winter"

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$60

When: Mid-November - February

Key concepts: adaptation, hypothermia, habitat requirements, tracking, invertebrate life stages, strategies for survival
Have you ever wondered where the wildlife disappears to in the cold months of winter? Nature's friendly creatures will lead the way as we follow animal tracks to their winter habitats. Searching for living creatures in the brisk of winter will heighten student's awareness of adaptation as well as teaching the essentials for sustaining life.

Forest Community Study

Title: "We All Rely on Each Other"

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$60

When: March - June, September - November

Key concepts: community, diversity, ecosystem, interrelationship, habitat requirements
Plants and animals that live within a forest community are dependent on one another for survival. Students will learn what keeps a forest alive and the importance of diversity in a community.



Insect Ecology

Title: "Crunch Squish or Squish Crunch?"

Time: 3 hours

Cost: \$90

When: April - June, September - November

Key concepts: insect parts, adaptation, invertebrate, vertebrate, exo and endoskeleton, complete and incomplete metamorphosis

Students will search through a forest, explore a pond and wander fields with nets to capture invertebrates for an in-depth investigation.

The Natural History of Birds

Title: "Birds of a Feather"

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$60

When: September - June

Key concepts: *bird identification, adaptation, and bird habitats*
Join us for a tour of the world of birds. Students will become bird watchers as they learn where and how to look for our feathered friends, and how to identify species with the use of binoculars and field guides.

Recycling

Title: "What If Nature Didn't Recycle?"

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$60

When: March - June, September - November

Key concepts: *decomposition, decomposers, nutrient cycling, interdependence, invertebrate, vertebrate, the five Rs, composting*
"Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle" are the five Rs needed to be practiced by all. Students will discover nature's decomposers and investigate the organisms responsible for decomposition. They will bring a simple vermicomposting system back to the classroom.

Nature Stations

Title: "Station Rotation"

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$60

When: September - June

Key concepts: *major insect parts, seed dispersal, aquatic vs. terrestrial turtles, tree identification, bird differences*

An introduction by name is a great way to remember new friends, the names stick even better when you have to do some work to learn them. This rainy day activity will enable students to identify insects, turtles and birds by rotating through "nature stations."



Pond Ecology

Title: "Livin' Where It's Wet"

Time: 3 hours

Cost: \$90

When: April - June, September - November

Key concepts: *invertebrates, diversity, pollution, catch and -release, life stages of insects*

The Pond Ecology program investigates the aquatic life of a pond -- from the aquatic dragonfly nymph to the aerial adult; from the tiny tadpole to the giant bull frog. Pond Ecology includes field collection, exploration, and a classroom component where microscopes and identification complete the lesson.



Registration...

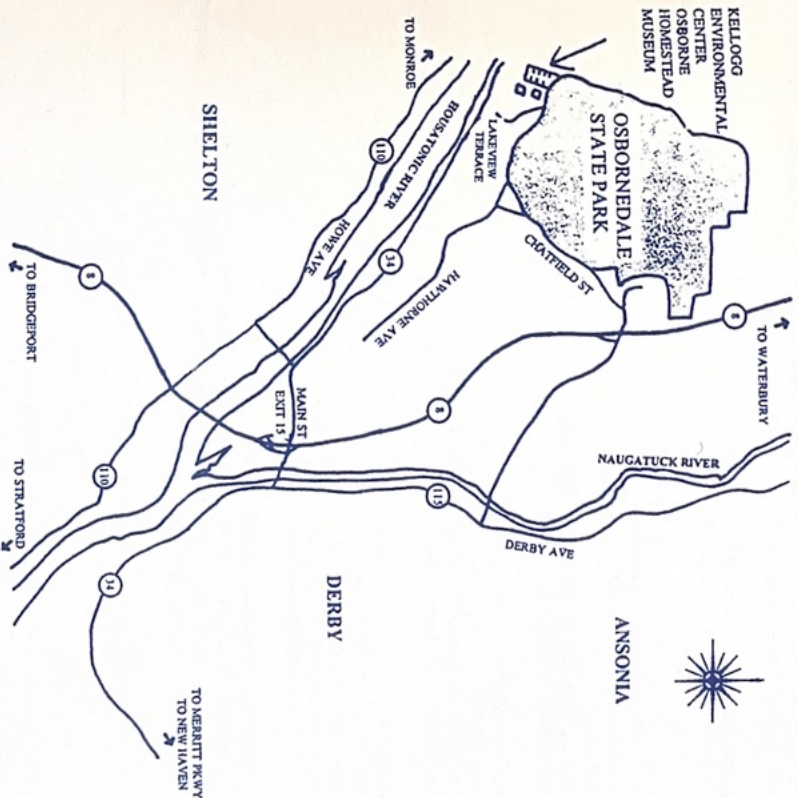
Registration for these programs is required. Enrollment is limited to 25 students per program, however, more than one classroom may enroll for a given day with the availability of additional KEC staff. All programs must be accompanied by a minimum of one adult for every ten students, with a preference for one for every five. For further information or program registration, phone (203) 734-2515, or fax (203) 922-7833. The Center is located at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby, CT.

Participant Guidelines...

- All programs are conducted rain or shine. We offer indoor programs when necessary. For severe weather cancellations, we encourage you to reschedule.
- Programs are suitable for students grades 4 and up.
- Special programs require 4 weeks notice and are only available if preparation time is sufficient.
- Adequate clothing for outdoor classes is essential for students, teachers and chaperones. Come prepared with rain gear, waterproof footwear, hats, gloves and warm clothing during cold weather. Programs may involve a couple of hours in the field.
- The group has the most fun when everyone participates, including teachers and chaperones. Come prepared to join in!
- Pre-lesson activities will be sent to you upon registration. Students learn more when they have an opportunity to cover key concepts prior to the field trip.
- Picnic lunches are permissible, with a carry-in, carry-out policy for all trash. We encourage recycling at the center. Your students can recycle most juice containers, soda cans and even food scraps at our center.
- Please call us if you will be late on the day of the field trip. If a group arrives late, the program will be shortened by that amount of time.

We thank you ahead of time for your preparedness!

**KELLOGG ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
OSBORNE HOMESTEAD MUSEUM**
500 Hawthorne Avenue, P.O. Box 435, Derby CT 06418



HOW TO FIND US

From Eastern Connecticut (I-95 Southbound)

- after crossing Quinnipiac Bridge, take exit 47 (=Rte. 34 connector)
 - stay on connector until it ends
 - proceed straight to junction with Ella Grasso Boulevard
 - take a right onto the Boulevard and move quickly to the left lane
 - at the first intersection, take a left onto Rte. 34
- continue west on Rte. 34
- in Derby, Rte. 34 makes a hard left turn over the Naugatuck River and passes under Rte. 8
- see Getting Close directions below

From Southwestern Connecticut (I-95 Northbound)

- from I-95, take exit 27 to Rte. 8
- from Rte. 8, take exit 15
- at end of ramp, turn left onto Rte. 34
- see Getting Close directions below

From the North on Rte. 8 (Southbound)

- take exit 15
- at end of ramp, turn left onto Main St. (Rte. 34)
- see Getting Close directions below

From the South on Rte. 8 (Northbound)

- take exit 15
- at end of ramp, turn left onto Main St. (Rte. 34)
- see Getting Close directions below

From the Wilbur Cross (Northbound)

- take exit 52 onto Rte. 8 North
- from Rte. 8, take exit 15
- at end of ramp, turn left onto Main St. (Rte. 34)
- see Getting Close directions below

From the Wilbur Cross (Southbound)

- take exit 58 (2nd exit after West Rock Tunnel) and go right on Rte. 34
- in Derby, Rte. 34 makes a hard left turn over the Naugatuck River and passes under Rte. 8 overpass
- see Getting Close directions below

Getting Close

In Derby: from Main Street Rte. 34/Rte. 8 intersection (overpass)

- continue West on Rte. 34 for about 1.5 miles
- take a right onto Lakeview Terrace (there is a sign for Kellogg/Osbomedale just before the road) and continue to stop sign
- turn left at stop sign
- our parking lot is on your left. Welcome!

printed on recycled paper



Kellogg Environmental Center
PO Box 435
Derby, CT 06418